

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127581
ORIGIN ERDA-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 127581

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, UR, TECH, TGEN, ENRG

SUBJECT: US-USSR ENERGY AGREEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS

REF: 1) MOSCOW 6929, 2) STATE 82106, 3) STATE 84358
4) STATE 311335 (76), 5) STATE 77655, 6) STATE 100908

1. ERDA AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARE PLEASED THAT EMBASSY BELIEVES LOPATIN'S APPOINTMENT AS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CHIEF IN MINISTRY OF POWER AND ELECTRIFICATION WILL BE HELPFUL TO US-USSR ENERGY RELATIONS IN GENERAL AND THE ENERGY AGREEMENT IN PARTICULAR. (REF. 1). WE HOPE THAT LOPATIN WILL IN FACT BE ABLE TO HELP OVERCOME COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE PROLIFERATED RECENTLY, HINDERING THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF SEVERAL PROJECTS UNDER THE ENERGY AGREEMENT. A BRIEF REVIEW OF RECENT COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS IS PROVIDED BELOW TO ENABLE THE EMBASSY TO BE IN A POSITION
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TO CONTINUE THE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WHICH HAS DEVELOPED WITH LOPATIN.

2. HEAT REJECTION (08.0203): THE SOVIETS REQUESTED AND ERDA APPROVED AN EXPERTS VISIT TO THE US IN JUNE 1977. (REF. 2) THE SOVIETS NEVER RESPONDED TO DR. D. BAUER'S INVITATION AND ERDA WAS THEREFORE OBLIGED TO POSTPONE THE

VISIT UNTIL A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE LATER DATE. ERDA WILL AWAIT A SOVIET SUGGESTION FOR ALTERNATIVE TIMING.

3. GAS (08.05): THE US PROPOSED THAT THERE BE A MEETING IN THE USSR TO DISCUSS ENHANCED GAS RECOVERY AND UPDATE PROTOCOLS IN JUNE 1977. (REF 3) THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT ANSWERED DR. H. N. DUNNING'S LETTER AND ERDA HAS BEEN OBLIGED TO POSTPONE THE VISIT DUE TO INSUFFICIENT TIME TO MAKE ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS AT THIS LATE DATE. WE HAVE PROPOSED OCTOBER/NOVEMBER AS AN ALTERNATIVE DATE.

4. SOLAR (08.0209): AT THE SOVIETS' REQUEST, JANUARY VISIT TO THE USSR BY US SOLAR EXPERTS WAS POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER MAY. (REF 4) IN APRIL 1 LETTER FROM ERDA DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR BEATTIE TO STOLYAROV, IT WAS REQUESTED THAT PAPERS BE EXCHANGED BY MAY 1. (REF 5) IF THE SOVIET PAPERS ARE NOT IN THE EMBASSY'S HANDS BY THE END OF MAY, ERDA WILL BE FORCED TO POSTPONE THE VISIT DUE TO INSUFFICIENT TIME TO TRANSLATE AND REVIEW PAPERS. ERDA WILL THEN AWAIT A SOVIET SUGGESTION FOR ALTERNATIVE TIMING.

5. OIL (08.04): A SOVIET DELEGATION OF OIL EXPERTS WAS INVITED TO VISIT THE US IN JUNE 1977. (REF 6) ERDA JUST LEARNED BY PHONE SOVDEL DOESN'T WISH TO COME IN JUNE.

6. ERDA AND THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THAT INCREASED UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTENTION SHOULD BE FOCUSED UPON THE ABOVE NOTED PROJECTS THAT APPEAR TO BE FLOUNDERING BECAUSE OF EITHER A SOVIET UNWILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE OR SOVIET INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO COMMUNICATIONS. SINCE DEPUTY MINISTER LOPATIN HAS ASSURED THE EMBASSY THAT THE USSR IS INTERESTED IN PURSUING ENERGY COOPERATION WITH THE US, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED DISCUSS ABOVE PROBLEM WITH LOPATIN AND SEEK HIS ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING SOVIET RESPONSES.

7. FYI. ERDA AND DEPARTMENT ARE CONCERNED THAT SOVIETS SEEM TO BE OVEREMPHASIZING DECISION NOT TO LOAN CRYOGENIC REFRIGERATOR, THUS CASTING NEGATIVE LIGHT ON US OVERALL COOPERATION UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. THIS IS UNJUSTIFIED, AS EVIDENCED BY ABOVE EXAMPLES, IN ADDITION TO MHD, WHERE US IS READY AND WILLING TO COOPERATE. IT SHOULD ALSO NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT SOVIETS RENEGED ON AGREEMENT TO PERMIT US DELEGATION VISIT KAMCHATKA TO SEE GEOTHERMAL SITES. VANCE

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